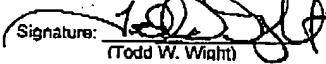


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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office, facsimile no. (703) 872-9302 on the date shown below.

Dated: March 19, 2003

Signature: 
(Todd W. Wright)

Docket No.: 297912001911
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Edwin et al.

Application No.: 09/858,035

Group Art Unit: 3738

Filed: May 15, 2001

Examiner: P. Prebelic

For: EXTERNALLY SUPPORTED GRAFTAMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.111Box Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated October 1, 2002, rejecting claims 33-40, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

In the Abstract

Please replace the abstract with the following rewritten abstract:

BB

--An endoluminal prosthesis for implantation within a body lumen to maintain luminal patency, including a support structure and a polymer component, which may be in the form of a wire member joined to a polymer cladding. The support structure may be formed of shape memory alloys, which exhibit either shape memory or pseudoelastic properties, or from an elastic material having an inherent spring tension such as spring steel, braided stainless steel wire, or composite materials, such as woven or braided carbon fibers. The polymer cladding may be formed from a variety of suitable materials...